There are also useful practical papers of instructions for herborising, for collecting micro-lepidoptera, and for preparing birds' eggs; as well as a large number of interesting paragraphs of information under the heads of the natural sciences.

THE *Journal of the Frankin Institute* for May contains a good drawing of Danks's patent puddling furnace, and a large number of paragraphs under the head "Items and Novelties." The substantial articles include a continuation of Prof. Nourse's paper on inter-oceanic communication across Central America; Mr. John Warner on the diamond rock drill; Mr. C. Van Bruol on a new modification of the Holtz machine, and a list of auroral displays during February at a number of stations in the United States; and the continuation of various other papers commenced in the preceding numbers.

THE number of the *Transactions of the Linnean Society* just published, vol. xxix. part 1, contains the commencement of Colonel Grant's Botany of the Speke and Grant Expedition, including an enumeration of the plants collected during the journey of the late Captain J. H. Speke and Captain J. A. Grant from Zanzibar to Egypt in 1860-63. The determinations and descriptions of the species are by Prof. Oliver, Mr. J. G. Baker, and other botanists connected with the Kew Herbarium; while Colonel Grant writes an introductory preface, alphabetical list of native names, and notes. It is prefaced by a good map of the whole of the journey; and illustrated by thirty-seven drawings on stone of new or remarkable species. The total number in the whole paper will be 100.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

LONDON

Geological Society, May 22.—Prof. Morris, vice-president, in the chair. The following communications were read:—1. A communication from the Right Hon. Earl Granville, inclosing a report from H. M. Minister at Rome, relating to the recent eruption of Vesuvius. 2. "On the Phosphatic Nodules of the Cretaceous Rock of Cambridgeshire," by the Rev. O. Fisher, M.A., F.G.S. This paper contained an attempt to explain the origin of the phosphatic nodules which lie in a thin bed at the base of the Chalk in Cambridgeshire, and are largely extracted by washing the stratum for the purpose of making superphosphate of lime. Two hundred and seventy tons per acre, at the rate of fifty shillings a ton, represents the valuable yield of the deposit, which is followed to the depth of about 18 feet. The nodules and other fossils of the bed are chiefly derivative, forming a concentrated accumulation from a deposit belonging to the Lower Cretaceous period. Some of the fossils are, however, believed to be indigenous to the deposit. *Plicatulæ* are attached to all the derivative fossils and nodules, and the sharp, broken surfaces of the latter, with *Plicatulæ* on them, show that they were mineralised before they were deposited in their present *gisement*. The green grains of chlorite have been drifted into patches. Certain calcareous organisms are preserved, but many genera of molluscs only occur as casts in phosphate of lime. The phosphatic matter has been determined in its deposition by *animal* substances. There are two chief varieties of the "ordinary" nodules. The first are amorphous, or else finger-shaped; the second formed like a long cake rolled partially or wholly upon a stick. The surface of these two kinds of nodules is coriaceous and wrinkled, and they usually show marks of attachment to some foreign body. Certain species, clearly zoophytes, are converted into phosphatic nodules, and, when sections are made of these, they are found to show under the microscope structures and spiculæ allied to those of Alcyonaria. Slices of the *common* nodules show similar spicular, and occasionally reticular structure. When casts in plaster are made from *Alcyonium digitatum*, and coloured to resemble the nodules, the similarity in general form and structure of surface is very striking. The phosphate was probably segregated by the animal matter from its solution in water charged with carbonic acid, which is a known solvent of the phosphate; an analysis of the matrix has proved that phosphate of lime is appreciably present in it. The author doubted the derivation of the nodules from the denudation of the subjacent Gault, and exhibited a collection of these to show that they were distinguished by more stunted growth. The deposit was on the whole considersd to represent the thin band with similar fossils at the base of the Chloritic Marl, as seen in the West of England, in which district it is underlain by the true arenaceous Greensand. The absence of the true Greensand was attributed to the intervention of the old palæozoic axis of the London area; and it was finally suggested that a similar axis might stretch from Leicestershire to Harwich, causing the change in character of the Lower Cretaceous beds between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.—3. "Some observations on the Upper Greensand formation of Cambridge," by Mr. W. Johnstone Sollas. The Greensand Formation consists around Cambridge of a Chalk marl containing harder portions of a different nature disseminated throughout it, these are separated from the Chalk Marl by levigation, and sorted by sifting into larger bodies, consisting almost entirely of the so-called "coprolites," and smaller bodies—the so-called "Greensand." The author gave a general account of his conclusions regarding the "coprolites," reserving details for a future communication. Of all the facts the most obvious is the connection between presence of "coprolite" and former existence of organic matter; when coprolite is found incrusting a bone or other fossil, it is precisely on those parts where animal matter adhered most abundantly. Instances were cited, as in *Palæocorystes*, where the absence of animal matter on the back of the carapace is marked by an absence of phosphatic incrustation; while the sternal side, where animal matter could easily escape, is often altogether embedded in "coprolite." Coprolites are the fossilisation of organic matter derived from very various sources. In many cases they owe their origin to sponges, almost certainly so in the case of cylindrical coprolites perforated by a cylindrical cavity, now filled up with Chalk Marl; other forms have an *allied* origin. Thus coprolites are the flints of the Gault. The Greensand is a mixture of calcareous, silicious, and dark-coloured grains of uncertain chemical composition. The calcareous grains consist of sponge spicules, minute shells, fragments and prisms of shell substance, bivalve entomostraca, microscopic corals, minute echinoderm species, polyzoa, and foraminifera. A list was given of the foraminifera, the abundant occurrence of *Lagma* here being particularly noticed, as, with the exception of *L. apiculata*, mentioned by Reuss, the genus had not before been noticed below the Maestricht Chalk. The silicious grains consist of fragments of various rocks, some of volcanic origin. The dark coloured grains are coprolitic *débris* and true green grains. The green grains are almost all casts of foraminifera, derived chiefly from *Bulimina*; others are derived from *Lituola*, *Rotalina*, *Globigerina*, and other forms. Some green grains of exactly the same nature had been found by the author in the silicious sand of Blackdown.—Prof. Phillips was glad that his casual remark had produced such satisfactory results as the paper he had heard. It was satisfactory to find that the bulk of the phosphatic nodules exhibited such marked traces of an organic origin. Though he had to some extent been prepared for this, it appeared that the view might be extended much further than would at first sight have been anticipated. He drew an analogy between the preservation of the forms of sponges in their silicified fossils with that of the soft organic bodies in the Greensand by phosphatic matter. In each case the surrounding water contributed a large amount of either flint or phosphate of lime, which was segregated and accumulated round certain centres or nuclei of organic bodies.—Prof. Ramsay inquired from what sources the abundance of phosphatic matter requisite for the production of these fossils could have been derived. In such thin strata, which seemed to indicate a transition from a land to a marine surface, it was a matter of great difficulty to his mind to account for so great an abundance of phosphatic matter.—Mr. Godwin-Austen remarked that phosphoric acid was largely present in sea water, and instanced the present seas, where, as on the Newfoundland banks, fish existed in enormous quantities, and no doubt also phosphatic matter. The Cambridge beds, though so rich, were by no means unique of their kind. He referred to a paper communicated some years ago to the Society by Mr. Payne, as affording many interesting particulars with regard to such beds. He considered that much of the phosphate attaching to decaying animal matter might have been derived from comminuted excrementitious deposits floating in the water.—The Rev. T. G. Bonney remembered a fact quoted by the late Dr. Mantell as to the large quantities of dead Mollusca which had been observed floating down some of the American rivers, and which had been regarded as a plentiful source of phosphatic matter. Small fishes might also have furnished a considerable quantity, and their value as manure was recognised at the present day. With regard to the nodules being Alcyonaria or sponges, he observed that what spicules he had seen appeared more like those of sponges. He agreed with Mr.

Sollas as to the foraminiferal origin of many of the green grains. He did not agree with Mr. Fisher in attributing all the nodules to the bed in which they were found, but thought that a considerable portion might be referred to the upper part of the Gault. In proof of the washing the Gault near Cambridge had undergone, he mentioned the occurrence there of a number of boulders of rocks quite foreign to the district.—Mr. J. F. Walker thought that most of the fossils of the phosphatic band at the base of the Chalk-marl were derived from the Gault, whilst the bed differed from chalk only by green grains becoming gradually more abundant. The fossils were generally much water-worn, the characteristic fossils of the Warminster Greensand were absent, and the most abundant fossils were all of Gault species. It seemed that wherever these accumulations of phosphatic matter occurred denudation had taken place, and that they were the residuary heavy materials of a large thickness of rock. This might also be observed in the Upware and Potton beds.—Mr. Whitaker observed that the Upper Greensand thinned out as much to the south as to the north of London. He inquired as to the alleged abundance of phosphate of lime in the upper part of the Gault. He doubted whether the thin band at Cambridge could represent the great thickness of Upper Greensand which was to be found in some other districts. He regarded it rather as a gradual passage into Chalk, though the line of demarcation was evident on the Gault. Though agreeing with Mr. Walker as to some of the fossils having been derived from the Gault, he could not regard them all as having come from that source.—Mr. Meyer thought that the Greensand had always been absent in the Cambridge district, and mentioned the occurrence of a bed of much the same character as that in question at Knighton in the Isle of Wight.—Mr. Forbes pointed out that the amount of phosphatic matter in fishes was so small that it was difficult to assign such an abundance as that described to this source. In limestones almost entirely composed of shells, he could find only from ½ to 1 per cent. of phosphate of lime. Even with true coprolites, he thought that they had become richer in phosphate since their deposition; but whence it was derived he would not pretend to say. He thought this question of derivation still open.—Prof. Morris mentioned the occurrence of similar deposits near Wissant, on the coast of France, and near Calne, in Wiltshire. He called attention to the extremely quiet nature of the sea in which the phosphatic bed had been deposited, and observed on the existence in recent times on certain sea-shores of ooze containing a large amount of phosphatic matter.—Mr. Fisher, in reply, stated that he had in his paper but slightly touched on the sources of derivation of the phosphate of lime; but as to the possibility of that substance being localised and derived in large quantity from fish, he pointed out that the principal manure of modern times, guano, was derived from this source. He alluded to the possibility of some process of dialysis having contributed to the segregation of the phosphate. He disputed the identity of the nodules in the Gault and in the Chloritic Marl of Cambridge. As to the character of the fossils, he regarded it as the same as that to be found in a thin band at the base of the chalk in parts of Hants and Dorset. Mr. Sollas had examined sections of the fossils from the Cambridge beds under the microscope, but had failed to find the canals or tuberculated spicules characteristic of Alcyonaria. He had, however, in the sand found numerous indisputable sponge spicules. He had, moreover, found in sections of the coprolites spicules such as were regarded by Dr. Bowerbank as characteristic of sponges. He hoped, however, to recur to the subject. Both Mr. Fisher and himself concurred in removing these nodules from the category of concretions, and placing them under the head of organic fossils. The transported blocks in the beds bear evidence of glacial action, and he considered had been brought from Scotland or Scandinavia. The cold sea then existing at the base of the Scandinavian chain of mountains flowed southwards over the bottom of the ocean, carrying with it mineral matter in solution, particularly phosphates, so that in this way he thought that some portion of the phosphatic matter was derived from the decomposition of the volcanic rocks north of Lammermuir, which were rich in this substance, and of which rocks he had found fragments near Cambridge. He considered that, under certain circumstances, the phosphate matter present in water would combine with animal matter, and hoped at some future time to offer some remarks on this subject to the Society.

Zoological Society, June 4.—Prof. Flower, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. G. Dawson Rowley exhibited a specimen of *Zonotrichia albicollis*, which had recently been captured alive near Brighton, being the second recorded instance of the occurrence of this bird in the British Islands.—Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited a specimen of the American Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*) killed in Ireland. This specimen had been referred by Mr. Blake Knox to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and by Lord Clermont, subsequently, to the Black-billed species (*C. erythropthalmus*). Mr. Sclater remarked that there could be no question of the latter determination being correct.—The Secretary communicated extracts from a letter received from Captain Henry Pain, of the S.S. *Scanderia*, on the habits of the Sea-Lion (*Otaria jubata*) and Fur Seal of the Falklands (*O. falklandica*).—Prof. Owen, F.R.S., read a paper on Dinornis, being the nineteenth of his series of memoirs on this genus. The present communication contained the description of a femur, indicative of a new genus of large wingless bird (*Dromornis australis, Ow.*) from a post-tertiary deposit in Queensland, Australia.—Prof. Flower, F.R.S., read a note on some points in the anatomy of the Two-spotted Paradoxure (*Nandinia binotata*), and showed that the cæcum is absent in this animal, contrary to the almost invariable rule which distinguishes the Arctoid subdivision of the Carnivora.—A communication was read from Dr. John Anderson, Curator of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, on the osteology and dentition of *Hylomys*. Dr. Anderson came to the conclusion that this form was most nearly allied to *Gymnura*, and belongs to the Erinaceidæ.—Mr. E. T. Higgins read a paper describing some new species of shells discovered by Mr. Clarence Buckley in Ecuador.—Mr. F. Moore communicated a paper by Captain Thomas Hutton on the Bats of the North-Western Himalayas, in which several new species were described.—Mr. P. L. Sclater read some additional notes on rare or little known animals, now or lately living in the Society's Gardens.—Dr. J. Murie read a paper on the Indian Wild-Dog (*Canis dukhunensis*); his observations being based on two specimens formerly living in the Society's Gardens. After noting points in their anatomy, Dr. Murie specially referred to the variations in the pelage and skulls, which distinguish the four supposed species of the genus. These he was inclined to regard only as one species, viz. *C. primævus*, with geographical varieties.—A second paper by Dr. Murie contained observations on the Bornean Ape (*Macacus maurus*), being the first of a series of papers on the rarer forms of this group.

Entomological Society, June 3.—Prof. Westwood, president, in the chair. Mr. Stainton exhibited specimens of a very large black *Coccus* on the cork oak found at Cannes by Mr. Moggridge. Also specimens of *Antispila rivillei*, bred from larvæ mining the leaves of the vine at Massa di Carrara, found by the Hon. Miss de Grey. This insect was first discovered in the island of Malta about 1750 by De Riville, but was not again noticed until 1871.—Prof. Westwood exhibited a large cottony mass, in which were enveloped the cocoons of a minute parasitic Hymenoptera which infested a large caterpillar in Ceylon; one of these caterpillars had produced at least 1,000 of this parasite .Mr. F. Moore had observed a similar occurrence in the larva of a large *Bombyx* from Bombay.—Prof. Westwood also exhibited apple twigs, the buds of which were destroyed by a larva, apparently of a *Tortrix*.—Mr. Higgins exhibited a selection of magnificent species of *Cetoniidæ* from Java obtained from Dr. Monicki.—Mr. Weir observed that he had recently found the larvæ of *Gonopteryx rhamni* feeding upon *Rhamnus alaternus* in his garden at Blackheath; this insect had not been seen there during sixteen years, and not until he planted this *Rhamnus*, which it immediately discovered, although so totally unlike the two indigenous species of the genus on which the larvæ habitually feed here.—Mr. Miller called attention to a paragraph in the daily newspapers concerning the enormous increase of ants on the island of May to such an extent as to render the land useless to the lighthouse-keepers. The subject had been brought to the notice of the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners, and a visit had been made to the island for the purpose of investigating the matter.

Linnean Society, June 6.—Mr. G. Bentham, president, in the chair. The president appointed Mr. Geo. Busk, Dr. J. D. Hooker, Mr. John Miers, and Mr. W. W. Saunders, vice-presidents for the year. The papers read were:—On some recent forms of *Lagenæ* from Deep-sea Dredgings in the Japanese Seas, by J. W. O. Rymer Jones; On the Cutaneous Exudation of the Water-newt (*Triton cristatus*), by Miss E. A. Ormerod.

Chemical Society, June 6.—Dr. Gilbert, F.R.S., vice-president, in the chair.—"On a Remarkable Salt deposited from the Mother Liquors obtained in the Manufacture of Soda," by Prof. E. T. Thorpe; "On the Composition of Ceylon Jargons," by M. H. Cochran; "On a Double Sulphide of Gold and Silver," by Mr. Pattison Muir; "On the Solvent Action of various Saline Solutions upon Lead," by the same author; "On the Magnetic Sand of Mount Etna," by J. B. Hannay; "New Tests for some Organic Fluids," by J. A. Wanklyn; "Dendritic Spots on Paper," by A. Liversidge; "On Chinoline and Leucoline," by C. Greville Williams, F.R.S. A letter from Mr. Dewar of Edinburgh was then read by the secretary on some derivatives of chinoline.—Dr. C. R. A. Wright read a paper on the "Action of Phosphoric Acid on Morphine," and Mr. W. H. Perkin, F.R.S. "A Note on the Secondary Colouring Matter produced in the preparation of Alizarine from Anthracene;" "On the Effects of Temperature on the Absorption of Gases by Charcoal," by Mr. J. Hunter. Dr. Armstrong then brought forward a series of "Communications from the Laboratory of the London Institution, No. V. On the Nitration Products of the Dibromo-phenolsulphonic Acids; No. VI. On Bromo-phenosulphonic Acid; No. VII. On the Formation of Substituted Nitrophenolsulphonic Acids," and finally the secretary read a letter which had been received from M. E. Maumené of Paris.

PHILADELPHIA

Academy of Natural Sciences, October 3, 1871.—Dr. Ruschenberger, president, in the chair. Mr. Thomas Meehan referred to some observations made by him last spring before the Academy in regard to the office of bud scales and involucral bracts. The general impression was that they were formed for the purpose of protecting the tender parts beneath. At that time he exhibited the branches of *Fraxinus excelsior* on which some of the buds were entirely naked, and others clothed with scales in the usual manner. They could scarcely be for protection in this instance, as both were equally hardy. He now had to exhibit an ear of corn which had been produced without the usual involucral bracts or husks, and yet was as perfect as if clothed in the usual way, showing that the husk was of not much importance as a protecting agent. An interesting point was that this ear had been formed on the end of a male panicle or tassel. It was not uncommon to find scattered grains of corn amongst male flowers, but a perfect ear like this he had never before seen. The ear was eight-rowed, and contained two hundred perfect grains. It was the variety known as "popcorn."

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, June 3.—Mr. A. Cayley communicated a paper on the surfaces divisible into squares by their curves of curvature, and on Dupin's theory.—A memoir by M. Yvon Villarceau on isochronous regulators derived from Watts's system was read.—M. de Pambour read a note on the additional friction due to the load of machines.—M. Le Verrier communicated some observations on magnetic declination made at Batavia and Buitenzorg during the solar eclipse of December 12, 1871, extracted from a letter from M. Bergsma, in which the author stated that this eclipse exerted no influence upon the direction of the magnetic needle either at Buitenzorg, where the eclipse was total, or at Batavia, where it was nearly so. M. Le Verrier also presented a note by M. C. Grad on the magnetic declination in Algeria, containing the results of a series of observations made at fourteen stations during the last winter.—A paper was read by M. Berthelot on the formation of acetylene by the obscure electrical discharge; and another by MM. Berthelot and Bardy on the transformation of ethylnaphthaline into acenaphthene.—A note by the Abbé David, on a new species of *Paradoxornis*, was read. This bird was obtained near Shanghai by Father Heude, and is described under the name of *P. Heudei*.—M. C. Robin presented a note by M. A. Dufossé on the noises and expressive sounds uttered by fishes.—M. Bouillaud presented some considerations on chlorosis and anæmia in the human subject, with reference to M. Boussingault's paper, read at the last meeting, on the iron contained in the blood and in food; and M. A. Dumont read a note on the distribution of the water of the Rhone at Nîmes.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Michael Faraday: J. H. Gladstone (Macmillan and Co.)—My Garden, its Plan and Culture: Alfred Smee (Bell and Daldy).—A Lecture on Science and Revelation, 2nd edition: Jas. Stuart (Longmans and Co.).—A Discourse on the Inductive Philosophy: A. C. Finch (Longmans).—First Lessons on Health: J. Berners (Macmillan).

DIARY

THURSDAY, JUNE 13.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Further Experiments on the Effect of Alcohol and Exercise on the Elimination of Nitrogen: Dr. Parkes, F.R.S.—On the Spectrum of the Great Nebula in Orion, and on the Motions of some Stars towards or from the Earth: W. Huggins, F.R.S.—On Blood-Relationship: F. Galton, F.R.S.—Report of further Scientific Researches in the Mediterranean, Aug.–Oct., 1871: Dr. Carpenter, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Ancient Rings from Palestrina: C. D. E. Fortnum, F.S.A.—Polychrome Vitreous Beads: J. Brent, F.S.A.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Surfaces divisible into Squares by Curves of Curvature: Prof. Cayley.—On Prof. Cremona's Transformation between Two Planes and Tables relating thereto: Mr. S. Roberts.—On a Manifold Correspondence of Two Planes: Dr. Hirst.—Note on a Special Case of the Anharmonic Ratio Sextic: J. J. Walker.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

MONDAY, JUNE 17.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Tribes of North Aracan: St. Andrew St. John.—Australian Languages and Traditions: Rev. W. Ridley.—Indian Picture Writings in British Guiana: C. B. Brown.—Exhibition of Photograph of the Tattooed Man, and Short Description: A. W. Franks.—The Ainos of Yeso: Commander H. C. St. John.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.—On the Cranial Appendages and Wattles of the Horned Tragopan (*Ceriornis satyra*, Linn.): Dr. J. Murie.—On the Cetacea observed during the voyage round the world of H.I.M.S. *Magenta*, 1865–68, with the description of several new or little known species, and of a new genus of Fin-backed Whale: Prof. H. H. Giglioli.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Discovery of Palæolithic Implements in association with *Elephas primigenius* in the Gravels of the Thames Valley at Acton: Col. A. Lane Fox.—On the Evidence for the Ice-sheet in North Lancashire and adjacent parts of Yorkshire and Westmoreland: R. H. Tiddeman.—On a new Species of Coral from the Crag: Prof. P. Martin Duncan, F.R.S.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.—Anniversary Meeting.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the structural peculiarities of the Bell Bird (*Chasmorhynchus*): by Dr. Murie, F.L.S.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On Deacon's Method of obtaining Chlorine, as illustrating some principles of Chemical Dynamics: H. Deacon.

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